

Withdrawing from the Spirit of the Lord by

I was contemplating being involved in an unkind exchange on the form, but my place of scripture study awoke me to what was happening. As I read, studied, and pondered these words this morning, **the plain and precious** principle involved became strongly apparent:

32) ...**beware** lest there shall arise **CONTENTIONS among you**, and **ye list to obey the evil spirit**...

33) ...there is a wo pronounced upon him who listeth to **obey that spirit**; for if he listeth to **obey** him, and remaineth and dieth in his sins, the same drinketh damnation to his own soul; for he receiveth for his wages **an everlasting punishment**, having transgressed the law of God **contrary to his own knowledge**...

36) ...after ye have known and have been taught all **these things**, if ye should transgress and **go contrary** to that which has been spoken, ... ye do **withdraw yourselves** from the Spirit of the Lord...

37) ...the same cometh out in **open rebellion** against God; therefore he listeth to **obey** the evil spirit, and becometh an enemy to all righteousness; therefore, the Lord has no place in him, for he dwelleth not in unholy temples.

38) Therefore **if that man repenteth not**, and remaineth and dieth an enemy to God, the demands of divine justice do awaken his immortal soul to a lively sense of his own guilt, which doth cause him to shrink from the presence of the Lord, and doth fill his breast with **guilt**, and **pain**, and **anguish**, which is **like an unquenchable fire**, whose flame ascendeth up forever and ever.

39) ...**mercy hath no claim** on that man; therefore his **final doom** is to endure a never-ending torment. -Mosiah 2

How serious is contention? Does our pride, envy, and persecutions (see Alma 5) kick in easily? A simple breakdown of the above principle **may** be articulated as: when we contend, we **obey** an evil spirit.

I have also pondered how we "withdraw" rather than the Spirit withdrawing from us.

I have a new, revised goal to **earnestly** not contend anymore. If anyone wants to take a swipe at me, it is their prerogative. I will also endeavor not to provoke others. If on the other hand an explanation or clarification is requested, I will try to accommodate without being snarky. My apologies for past transgressions.